(b) whether starvation deaths have also been reported from other States, especially Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central aid sought and given to each State to avert such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No starvation death has been reported by Rajasthan Government among the Saharia tribes in Rajasthan.

(b) No starvation death have also been reported by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra government in their State.

(c) Does not arise.

Private traders in food management

888. SHRI S.P.M. SAEED KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private traders in the food management when the foodgrain stocks exceed the buffer requirements;

(b) the details of Government's policy on the private participation in food management; and

(c) the details regarding the stocks of rice and wheat in the Central pool during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per present policy of the Government foodgrains trade is free in the country and there is no restriction on the private sector to engage in procurement of foodgrains. All controls on licensing, stock limits and movement restrictions on foodgrains have been removed by the Government *vide* a Central Order issued on 15.02.2002.

(c) The stock position of rice and wheat in the centre pool during the last three years as on 1st November were as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
2001	265.04	357.97
2002	205.09	330.59
2003	56.59	164.13
2004	110.04	126.31

Review of BPL Families

†889. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families living below the poverty line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), identification of families below the poverty line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana and issue of Ration Cards to them is the responsbility of the State Governments. The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, provides for review of lists of BPL and Antyodaya families every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families.

Foodgrains and sugar to BPL families in U.P. and Uttaranchal

890. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons below the poverty line as on 30th November, 2004 living in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, separately;

(b) the number out of them who are being provided foodgrains and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.